

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 2 and 5-10 are pending in the application. In response to the Office Action (Paper No. 8), Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims define patentable subject matter.

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable anticipated by Tomoyoshi (JP 51-66409). Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomoyoshi in view of Janette (USP 1,651,059). Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomoyoshi in view of Hyatt, Jr. et al. (USP 5,990,594; hereinafter "Hyatt"). Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomoyoshi in view of Applicant's admitted prior art (Fig. 18). Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomoyoshi in view of Umeda et al. (USP 5,955,810; hereinafter "Umeda"). Applicant respectfully traverses the prior art rejections.

The present invention is directed to an automotive alternator enabling the operation of replacing the brushes to be performed easily, and having improved cooling efficiency. As shown in Figure 1, the alternator includes a case 33, a rotor 7 disposed inside the case 33, a stator 8, brushes 10 for supplying electric current from an electric power supply to the rotor 7, and a brush holding assembly 100 secured to the case 33. The brush holding assembly 100 is provided with a cover 11b and a holding portion 11a for holding the brushes 10 within the holding portion 11a. An open portion 50 in a position on the case 33 facing the cover 11b of the brush holding

assembly 100. The location of the open portion 50 enables easy replacement of the brushes 10 by removing the cover 11b without complete disassembling the alternator.

Claim 1 recites, in part, “a brush holding assembly secured to said case, said brush holding assembly comprising a holding portion housing said brush, and a cover disposed on a head portion of said holding portion and capable of being opened to remove said brush; a brush terminal electrically connected to said brush; and an open portion for removal and insertion of said brush being formed at a position on said case facing said cover”. Claim 1 further requires “said brush holding assembly includes a holding assembly terminal, said holding assembly terminal and said brush terminal are electrically connected by a connection member, and said holding assembly terminal, said brush terminal and said connection member are covered by said cover which is exposed in said open portion.”

As shown in Figure 1 of the present application, the holding assembly terminal, the brush terminal and the connection member are covered by the cover 11b of the brush holding assembly 100 and the cover 11b is exposed in the open portion 50 and requires removal before the brush 10 can be removed (by removing the connection member securing the brush terminal and the holding assembly terminal). See page 9, first full paragraph.

Tomoyoshi (Figures 1-3) discloses a brush holding assembly 21 secured to a rear bracket 4 holding a brush 8 within a square opening 12. The brush 8 is electrically connected to via a wire 9 and spring 10 to a brush terminal 11. The brush holding assembly 18 includes mounting hardware 6 for mounting the brush 8a via the brush terminal 11. However, Applicant respectfully submits that it is quite clear that Tomoyoshi does not teach or suggest that the brush

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holding assembly 21 is provided with a cover which is disposed on a head portion of the holding portion, exposed in the open portion and covers the holding assembly terminal, the brush terminal and the connection member, as claimed.

Lastly, Applicant respectfully submits that the other cited references do not teach or suggest the claimed cover.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1, as well as dependent claims 2 and 5-10, should be allowable because the combined references do not teach or suggest all of the features of the claims.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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